(a) contacting said filter with material of a sample suspected to comprise said fibrils or aggregates; and

(b) detecting whether said fibrils or aggregates are retained on said filter.

5. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 2 to 3 wherein said disease is Huntington's disease, spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy, dentarorubral pallidoluysian atrophy, spinocerebellar ataxia type-1, -2, -3, -6 or –7, Alzheimer disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), primary systemic amyloidosis, secondary systemic amyloidosis, senile systemic amyloidosis, familial amyloid polyneuropathy I, hereditary cerebral amyloid angiopathy, hemodialysis-related amyloidosis, familial amyloid polyneuropathy III, Finnish hereditary systemic amyloidosis, type II diabetes, medullary carcinoma of the thyroid, spongiform encephalopathies: Kuru, Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker syndrome (GSS), familial insomnia, scrapie, atrial amyloidosis, hereditary non-neuropathic systemic amyloidosis, injection-localized amyloidosis, hereditary renal amyloidosis, or Parkinson's disease.

6. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said filter is comprised of material with low protein adsorption.

8. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 wherein, prior to step (b), the following step is carried out: (b') washing said filter so as to remove detergent- or urea-soluble material of the sample.

9. (Amended) The method of any one of ~~claims 1 to 3 and 7~~ wherein detergent- or urea-soluble material of the sample ~~is simultaneously~~ with or subsequent to step (a), sucked through ~~said filter.~~

10. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 wherein detection in step (b) is effected by an antibody, or peptide or polypeptide, preferably a tag or an enzyme, or a fragment or derivative thereof or a chemical reagent that specifically binds to said fibrils or aggregates.

11. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 wherein detection in step (b) is effected by electron microscopy, electron scanning microscopy, fluorescence or chemiluminescence.

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12. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1, 2, and 7 wherein said material of the sample is derived from tissues or cells of bacteria, yeast, fungi, plants, insects, animals, preferably mammals, humans, from a transgenic animal or a transgenic plant.

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13. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 further comprising the following steps prior to step (a):

(a') incubating a fusion protein comprising a peptide or polypeptide that enhances solubility or prevents aggregation of said fusion protein, an amyloidogenic peptide or polypeptide that has the ability to self-assemble into amyloid-like fibrils or protein aggregates when released from said fusion protein and a cleavable site that separates the above-mentioned components of the fusion protein in the presence of a suspected inhibitor of amyloid-like fibril or protein aggregate formation; and

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(a'') simultaneously with or after step (a'), further incubating with a compound that induces cleavage at said cleavage site.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising, prior to step (b) and after step (a''):

(a''') incubation with an inhibitor of said compound that induces cleavage.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said amyloidogenic peptide or polypeptide comprises a polyglutamine expansion.

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17. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said polyglutamine expansion comprises at least 35, preferably at least 41, more preferably at least 48 and most preferably at least 51 glutamines.

18. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 wherein said contacting is effected by dotting, spotting or pipetting said material of the sample onto said filter.

19. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 wherein said filter is a filter membrane.

20. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 wherein said detergent is Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate (SDS) or TRITON X-100™.

21. (Amended) An inhibitor of amyloid-like fibril or protein aggregate formation identified by the method of claim 14.

23. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the inhibitor of claim 22 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

24. (Amended) A diagnostic composition comprising

(i) the fusion protein of any one of the preceding claims.

25. (Amended) The diagnostic composition of claim 24 further comprising

(ii) the filter of any one of the preceding claims optionally or preferably contained in a microtiter plate; and optionally

(iii) the compound that induces cleavage of any one of the preceding claims; and optionally;

(iv) an inhibitor of said compound of (iii); and optionally

(v) suitable buffer solutions.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 5, 8-10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, 21 and 23-25 have been amended for clarification purposes only in response to comments by the Examiner. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the material is material of a sample. Claims 5, 6, 8-13, 15-21, and 23 have been amended to remove improper multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added.